

# cityscene

What's happening in the City of Fairfax

MARCH 2021



## Nonprofit's Playroom Refurbished with Love

**T**he United Methodist Family Services Regional Center of Northern Virginia is a special place for foster parents Sarah and Christian Hamaker, who are fostering a five-year-old girl. The therapeutic foster care agency in Alexandria provides a visitation room in which children can interact with their biological parents.

Last year, the Hamaker's daughter, Naomi, a Fairfax High School senior and member of the youth organization American Heritage Girls, noticed that the room looked a little rundown. The books and toys were aging, there were mismatched chairs, and the blank walls were crying out for some lively colors. UMFS did not have the time or resources at the time to refurbish the room, so Naomi used her AHG Stars & Stripes project to refurbish the room with the help of her AHG Troop VA1907 and FHS friends.

UMFS serves young people up to age 17, but the books available in

the room were mostly geared toward young children. Naomi purchased new books inclusive for all ages, ethnicities, genders, and sexualities. She created a reading nook, with a new lamp and loveseat, where children can read together with their biological parents during visits.

She installed vertical storage units in the small room to maximize floor space where kids can play. Sensory items were affixed to the walls to comfort children when they feel stressed, anxious, or scared. The walls are now decorated with a lock board, cardboard squares with fabrics stretched across them, a yarn hanging, and small mirrors.

A new mural designed by FHS art student Sabina Nguyen adds a splash of color to the walls. The room now feels warmer and brighter. Naomi and her AHG friends painted and hung the mural. "It is a fun mural suitable for all ages and is meant to bring joy to the kids there," said Naomi.



Naomi Hamaker (second from right, and above) poses with some of the girls and leaders who helped refurbish the visitation room.

Inset photo by Lisa Phillips Captures

For her big-hearted effort, Naomi earned the Stars & Stripes Award, AHG's highest recognition.

"The space we had wasn't very interactive or organized," said Leslie Perez, the family services coordinator at UMFS. "Naomi approached us about the project in November 2019 and did a great job outlining needs, ideas, raising funds for items and installing the final work

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# CITY NEWS

## Budget Review Begins February 23

City Manager Rob Stalzer has introduced the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-22. What happens next? How can you remain engaged?

- Download your copy of the proposed budget from [fairfaxva.gov/budget](http://fairfaxva.gov/budget). (Limited numbers of printed copies are available; call 703-385-7870.)
- Watch the city manager's presentation at the February 23 City Council meeting. (On [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov), click on "City Meetings," and watch the archived video.)
- Engage on the budget at [engage.fairfaxva.gov](http://engage.fairfaxva.gov). The city continues to seek public input until the city council adopts the final budget May 5.
- Watch upcoming city council meetings and work sessions on the budget, televised on cable channel 12 and livestreamed on the city website. Use the eComment feature on the city website.
- Educate yourself on the city budget: it is a detailed description of how taxpayer money is spent. It explains the city's goals, proposed programs, and activities for that fiscal year. *Information: fairfaxva.gov/budget; 703-385-7870.*

## Real Estate Tax Relief, Rent Relief Applications Due April 15

The City of Fairfax provides real estate tax relief and rent relief for senior citizens and city residents with permanent and total disabilities. Different types of relief are granted on a sliding-scale and based on income. Qualified homeowners may choose basic tax relief, tax deferral, tax freeze, or combination tax freeze and deferral. Rent relief is available

for senior citizens or renters with permanent and total disabilities.

Virginia offers a real estate tax exemption for the primary residence of certain disabled veterans and their surviving spouses.

Pick up applications from the Finance Department. Submission deadline is April 15. *Information: fairfaxva.gov (search "tax rent relief"), 703-359-2486.*

## Spring Clean-Up Day, Mulch Delivery Canceled in 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the city has canceled the 2021 Spring Clean-Up Day. Additionally, mulch delivery to civic associations is suspended. *Information: 703-385-7995.*

## COVID-19 INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

### City of Fairfax

[fairfaxva.gov/coronavirus](http://fairfaxva.gov/coronavirus)  
[WeCare@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:WeCare@fairfaxva.gov)  
703-385-7800

Text FXCCOVID19 to 888-777 for City of Fairfax-related information and updates (visit [fairfaxva.gov/coronavirus](http://fairfaxva.gov/coronavirus) for email option)

### Fairfax County Health Department

(City's public health services provider)  
[fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19)  
703-267-3511

Text FFXCVID to 888-777 for Fairfax Health District information and updates (visit [fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19) for email option)

### Virginia Department of Health

[vdh.virginia.gov](http://vdh.virginia.gov) 877-ASK-VDH3

**CDC, Centers  
for Disease Control  
and Prevention** [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)

**In case of  
emergency,  
dial 911**



## Nonprofit's Playroom

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with her group. During this time, COVID-19 put restrictions on several things and delayed installation, but Naomi persevered and the project was completed in a timely manner," added Perez.

"When I looked around at the final room, I could not believe that I had transformed my plans into a reality," exclaimed Naomi. "I thought about all of the kids who would use the room, all of the kids who now had books to read with characters like them, a space to spend time with their biological parents, sensory wall pieces to touch whenever they felt anxious. I hoped that when the kids used the room, they could feel the love I put into it and the love I have for them."



# COUNCIL REPORTER

**PLEASE NOTE:** summaries have been edited. To read the full Council Reporter, visit [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov) and click on "City Meetings."

## COUNCIL ACTIONS OF JANUARY 12, 2021

### CONSENT AGENDA

- Adopted, unanimously: Consideration of purchase of a cemetery site to a non-resident; Consideration of a resolution to approve the city's submission to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority for FY 22 – 27 Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Funding; Consideration of a resolution consenting to a Third Amended and Restated Declaration of Local Emergency, relating to the COVID-19 pandemic; Consideration of approval of Northern Virginia Critical Incident Response Team Memorandum of Understanding; Consideration to award a construction contract for the IFB 21062 Multi-Use Trail Rehabilitation and Paving to Veterans Kitchen Maintenance (VKM Contracting) in the amount of \$257,536; Introduction of an ordinance to amend City Code Chapter 82 (Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places), Article II (Property Numbers; Street Names), to update and clarify certain provisions relating to the process for numbering properties and principal buildings within the city.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, unanimously, an ordinance approving and authorizing a license agreement between the City of Fairfax and Jim McKay Chevrolet, Inc., for the temporary use of certain real property at tax map no. 57-2-02-027.

### ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Preliminary Capital Improvement Project (CIP) direction by the City Council for CIP to include in the proposed budget.

### APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSION, AND STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Appointed the following representatives to the Connecting Fairfax City for All Stakeholder Group:

Precinct 1: Kevin Kruczek

Precinct 2: Gabrielle Ravanera and Jay Lamb

Precinct 3: Patrick Murry, Minoo Kim, and Marbea Tammaro

Precinct 4: Grace Francis, Cantrell Dumas and Mark Light

Precinct 5: Sara Pease and Erica Larkin

Precinct 6: Emilio Alonso

Non Resident: Mike Thornton

### MEMBERS OF SPECIAL GROUPS

Vicki Wood – Mount Calvary Baptist Church Representative

Matt West – Historic Fairfax City, Inc. Representative

Susan Olenchuk – Mosby Woods Community Representative

Grace Gillespie – Neighbors for Change Representative

## COUNCIL ACTIONS OF JANUARY 26, 2021

### CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously: Consideration of approval of a tree sculpture in Ratcliffe Park; Consideration of a resolution endorsing the furtherance of the joint City/County redevelopment of the Willard Center and the Sherwood Community Center Complex; Introduction of an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 98 (Traffic and Vehicles), Article I (In General), to add thereto a new Section 98-22 pertaining to the use of photo speed monitoring devices in highway work zones and school crossing zones, and to renumber the existing Section 98-22 pertaining to compliance with the provisions of Chapter 98; Introduction of a supplemental appropriation resolution in the amount of \$1,128,540 for FY 2021 mid-year non-discretionary and Council-authorized expenditures.
- Approved, unanimously, after discussion: to introduce an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 54 (Offenses and Miscellaneous provisions), Article I (General), to add thereto a new Section 54-4, pertaining to a prohibition on the possession, carrying, or transportation of firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof, in city buildings or facilities, on public property or at public events. Further moved to waive the first reading and to set the public hearing for consideration of the ordinance for February 9, 2021.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, unanimously, renewal of a Special Use Permit to allow a daycare center as an accessory use to a religious institution at 10185 Main Street, subject to conditions.
- Approved, unanimously, an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 82 (Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places), Article II (Property Numbers and Street Names).

### APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- Approved, unanimously, to reappoint: Clayton Austin to the Commission on the Arts; Thoria Hassan to the Community Appearance Committee; and Gail Wade to the George Mason University Fairfax Campus Advisory Board.
- Approved, unanimously, to appoint Daniel Smith to the Commission on the Arts; Annalisa Casazza to the Commission on the Arts; Debra Wright to the Commission on the Arts; and Tom Burrell to the Board of Architectural Review as the Planning Commission representative.

## Agendas Available on the City Website

Visit the city's homepage and click on "City Meetings" to read minutes from City Council, School Board, and Planning Commission meetings, and to view proposed agendas for upcoming meetings.



**YouTube** Subscribe to see what you're missing!  
[www.youtube.com/user/cityoffairfaxva](https://www.youtube.com/user/cityoffairfaxva)



## 5 MINUTES WITH ...

### ERIN SCHAIBLE

CHIEF, CITY OF FAIRFAX  
POLICE DEPARTMENT



**How long have you worked for the city?** I have served the City of Fairfax for two years since retiring from the Fairfax County Police Department after 28 years. I love my job because there are so many opportunities to help people and make a difference. I believe in living a purpose-driven life, and being in law enforcement helps me achieve that.

**What is the “big picture” of your role?** I believe our role is to ensure our community is safe, and that entails ensuring we have enough officers to staff the street, that the officers are properly trained, and that the officers are community focused and effective at deterring crime and effecting arrests as needed. I believe the role of the chief is to ensure that our agency always maintains the public trust. To accomplish this goal, we build and maintain strong relationships with the community.

**What should residents know about your department?** Recruitment is a big challenge for us. We are constantly trying to hire officers. It takes almost a full year for someone to complete our application process, police academy, and field training. This means it takes a year for a newly hired officer to be ready to patrol the streets as a solo officer.

It is also really important to point out that many crimes are not solved immediately, rather they are solved by

our detectives who process the scene and do the intensive investigative work that leads to developing suspects and subsequently arresting them. These criminals are rarely caught in the act; rather, they are caught when evidence is processed and leads are developed about suspects.

The city is an amazing place to work because of the people. Since the day I started, I have really felt welcome. I hope the community knows how much we appreciate all of the kind words, cards, and positive feedback they have shared with us.

#### What are some simple things residents can do to prevent crime?

Locking the doors to your vehicle is an amazing deterrent to reduce the chance of you being a victim of a larceny from your vehicle. The majority of our larcenies from vehicles are from vehicles that are unlocked. Likewise, do not leave car keys or house keys in your vehicle. Many of our stolen auto cases are crimes of opportunity, the result of keys being left in an unlocked vehicle.

The other things residents can do make their homes less attractive to criminals is to use motion sensor floodlights, trim bushes to reduce shadows and areas where criminals can hide, and install exterior cameras. If you are going out of town, don't post that information on social media (and make sure your kids don't, either). If you are out of the area for an extended time, make arrangements for your mail and other items that are delivered to your home. You don't want a pile of newspapers or mail in your driveway broadcasting that you are not home.

#### Where can residents find information from the Police Department?

The Police Daily Bulletin posted on the city website provides a summary of some police cases from each day. Residents, businesses, and visitors are encouraged to follow the police department on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and NextDoor. Finally, residents can subscribe to email and text notifications via Fairfax City Alert and govDelivery.



## BEHIND THE BADGE Meet the D2 Squad



Police Officer First Class Sam Dee (left) and PFC David Tran (right) were tested this fall for proficiency in their secondary languages.

In addition to their regular policing duties, the officers of the D2 Squad can often be found at community events. So, what is the D2 Squad?

The City of Fairfax Police Department Patrol Division is organized into four squads that work on a rotating shift schedule. When one group is working, the other group is off. Each group has a day squad and a night squad. D2 stand for Days 2. The D2 Squad consists of five officers and two supervisors (sergeant and lieutenant).

As a whole, the police department is working hard to engage with the community, and the D2 Squad is involved in a number of efforts to achieve this goal.

- Testing for language proficiency to better connect with non-English speaking city residents
- Adopting families during the holidays, providing gift cards for meals, toys, clothes, and jackets
- Visiting the Connected Care program at Green Acres on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to engage with the children
- Providing winter survival kits to people experiencing homelessness through the H.O.P.E. (Having One Positive Encounter) program (featured in the February 2021 *Cityscene*.)

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## GETTING TO KNOW DR. MITCH SUTTERFIELD VICE-CHAIRMAN, CITY OF FAIRFAX SCHOOL BOARD

**Why do you serve on the school board?** I see my service as “continuing the mission.” After teaching and coaching from 1977 to 2009, I couldn’t just sit in my retirement rocking chair. I kept up my coaching of football and wrestling until 2017 and have been a substitute teacher for the past 12 years. The school board is an excellent way to do what I’ve been doing—helping kids—plus it’s a great front row seat on the intricate workings of a successful school system.

**What one thing do you want to accomplish during this term?** By the end of this school year, I’m hoping that our schools have resumed full-

time in-person learning, the way we had it a year ago and before. This is a phased-in process, with different grades starting at different dates and moving from part-time to full-time in-school instruction as we get the virus under control. We have many ideas on how to improve schools, but all depend on getting the kids back to their schools!

**What do you love most about city schools, and the city?** The city and its schools are on a human scale: one high school, one middle, and two elementary schools. I have access to all the important actors who make our local government work and the time to meet and get to know them.



**What is one thing you want people to know about you?** Call me “Coach.” I’ve taught English and government and have done some scholarship, but my formative experiences and most valuable contributions have been with my football and wrestling teams.

## Women’s Storytelling Festival



The second annual Women’s Storytelling Festival will be held virtually March 19-21. Tickets are on sale now at [www.bettersaidthandone.com/womens-festival](http://www.bettersaidthandone.com/womens-festival).

From Friday night through Sunday evening, stories from 36 female story-

tellers will be presented. Watch and enjoy performances by well-known storytellers Donna Washington, Kim Weitkamp, Mo Reynolds, Sheila Arnold, and many more. Some storytellers have been featured on PBS’ *Stories from the Stage*, *Risk*, *The*

*Moth*, and other programs.

Ticket holders receive access to all programs and will receive access to the recorded programs for two weeks after the festival.

The festival is held by Better Said Than Done, which produces themed, true, personal storytelling shows throughout Northern Virginia and beyond. With stories ranging in length from 7-70 minutes, the shows are energetic, engaging, and highly entertaining. They may be funny, poignant, silly, or unbelievable, but they will convince audiences that life is better in the telling.

“People who are new to storytelling can expect heartfelt stories about the struggles of being female,” says Cultural Arts Manager Megan DuBois. “Some tellers tell personal stories, others tell historic legends. We sing, we laugh, we cry, and we celebrate being a woman through story.”

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## HELPING HANDS



### WILLIAM "BILLY" BATES

HIGH SCHOOL LIAISON,  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

I have lived in the city since I was born, in 2003. I live in the Maple Hills subdivision and plan to remain in Fairfax City while attending George Mason University.

I serve on the Environmental Sustainability Committee because the health of our natural environment plays a vital role not only in our continued survival and quality of life, but in ensuring equality and justice for all. The consequences of our actions or inaction, including runoff, water supply contami-

nation, flooding, urban heat islands, and so many others, disproportionately affect people of color and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities. The responsibility to not only slow the effects of unsustainable activities but actually turn things around lies with all of us.

As the high school liaison, I carry out the duties of a member of the ESC, as well as the duties of advocating for actions that will directly affect the high school students of Fairfax City, voicing any concerns my fellow students may have regarding environmental sustainability in our community, and keeping them apprised of the work we're doing.

In order to protect the health of our environment, the ESC advises the city council on a wide range of policies with implications for our environment and also helps organize programs such as invasive plant removal volunteer events. The work that the ESC does ensures that our neighbors enjoy greater quality of life thanks to a healthier environment as well as vibrant, healthy foliage and green space throughout the city for residents to enjoy.

I am actively involved with Fairfax City Citizens for Smarter Growth; OneVirginia2021, a non-partisan redistricting reform advocacy organization; and the RepresentVirginia chapter of Represent Us, a non-

partisan organization focusing on ending electoral corruption and political bribery that counts industry leaders and celebrities such as Jennifer Lawrence and Ed Helms as board members.

We need high school students to engage with our city government, share their concerns, and serve as student representatives to City Council appointed and elected boards such as the ESC, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Commission on Women, and the City School Board. Those interested in becoming involved can visit the city website to voice their concerns to our city councilmembers and school board members, and can contact the city clerk's office if interested in serving as student representatives.



### THE CITY NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU

**Board of Architectural Review** (one vacancy); **Board of Building Code Appeals** (one mechanical or plumbing vacancy); **Board of Zoning Appeals** (one vacancy); **Community Appearance Committee** (five vacancies: four city residents, one Garden Club representative); **Economic Development Authority** (one city resident with financial background; for information, email [EconomicDevelopment@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:EconomicDevelopment@fairfaxva.gov)); **Personnel Advisory Board** (one vacancy); **Planning Commission** (one vacancy); **Regional Advisory Social Services Board** (one vacancy).

To apply, visit [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov) and search "boards and vacancies," or call 703-385-7935.

### Meet the D2 Squad

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- Three members of the squad are members of the P.O.L.I.C.E. Community Outreach Team
- Foot patrols engage with children in apartment complexes and parks
- Participating and facilitating neighborhood parades
- Working closely with the city's Human Services Office and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board to learn best ways to connect with and provide services to residents living with mental illness.

### Women's Storytelling Festival

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Some of the stories will be recorded at Old Town Hall, and many more will be livestreamed from around the country and Canada. "Some stories will be true, based on fact, and some stories will feel true, based on folktales," says festival organizer Jessica Piscitelli.

In addition to performances by the 36 storytellers, the festival includes a story swap, which is like an open mic performance. Participa-

tion in the swap is open to anyone with a ticket who attends the swap live. A random draw will determine the order of shared stories, which should be six minutes or shorter.

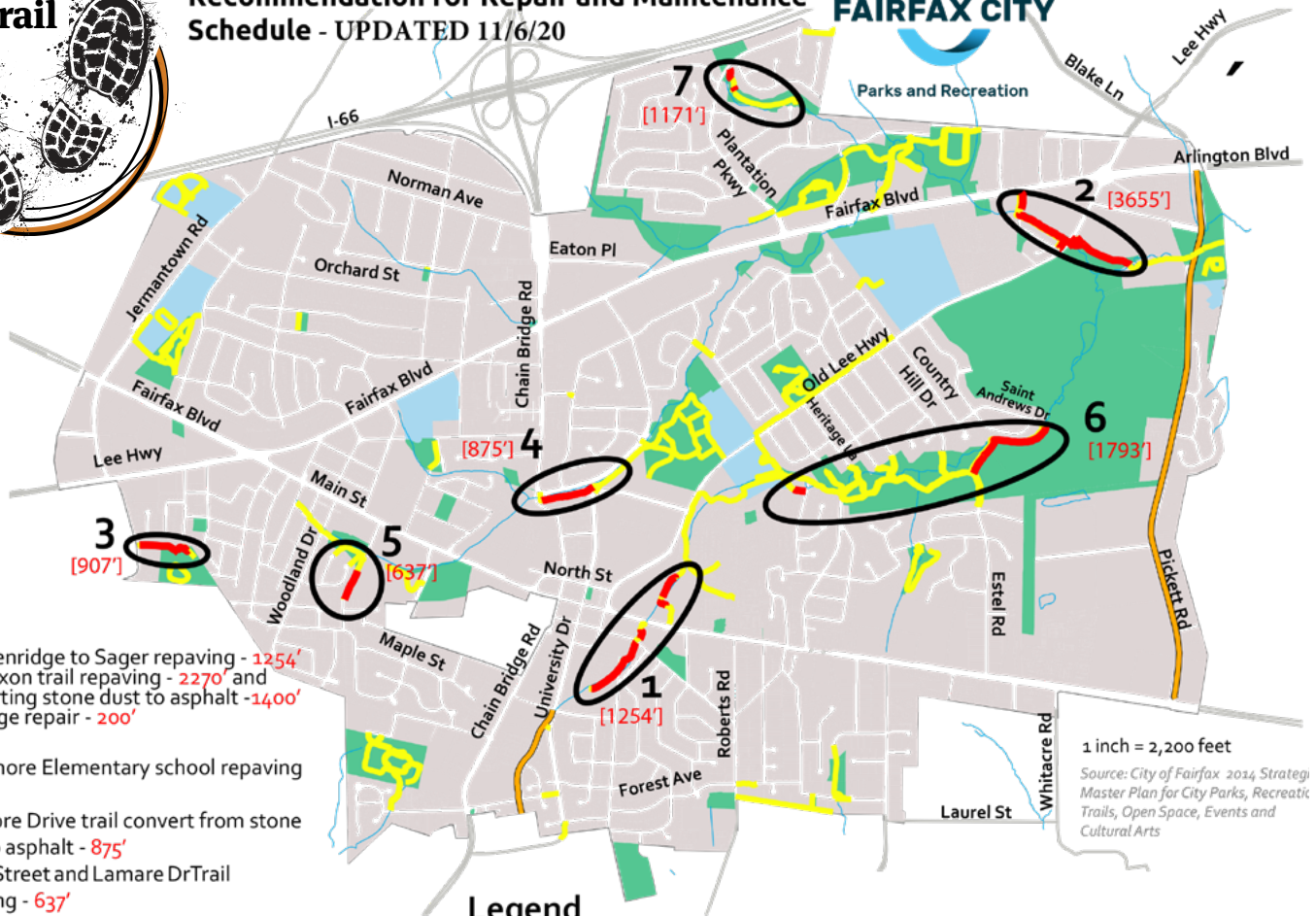
The festival also includes a story slam for ticket holders, hosted by the National Storytelling Network. The rules and execution of the slam are similar to the swap, except there will be three winners selected and cash prizes given out. The slam and the swap are open to all genders.

Info: [www.bettersaidthandone.com](http://www.bettersaidthandone.com)





## Existing Trail Assessment and Recommendation for Repair and Maintenance Schedule - UPDATED 11/6/20



1. Breckenridge to Sager repaving - 1254'
2. Willcoxon trail repaving - 2270' and converting stone dust to asphalt - 1400' drainage repair - 200'
3. Westmore Elementary school repaving - 907'
4. Kenmore Drive trail convert from stone dust to asphalt - 875'
5. Crest Street and Lamare Dr Trail repaving - 637'
6. Daniels Run from Saint Andrews to Heritage Lane paving - 1793'
7. Dale Lestina trail, from Plantation Parkway to Armory Ct repaving - 1171'

### Legend

- Existing Off-Street Trail
- Existing Shared Use Path
- Section of Path to be Repaired
- Park or Open Space
- School

## Scheduled Trail Maintenance

Many indoor activities have been unavailable during the pandemic, so residents have flocked to city trails for exercise, fresh air, and peace of mind.

Trails are vulnerable to the elements and require maintenance to keep them safe and enjoyable. The Parks and Recreation Department recently contracted with Veteran's Kitchen Maintenance, LLC, to repair and upgrade several popular trails. Work is scheduled to begin in March 2021.

Residents can expect temporary trail closures while trails are repaired or improved. Short-term closures will be posted online and on social media. The map shows which trails will be improved and describes the work.

## PulsePoint

### GET THE APP. SAVE A LIFE.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a leading cause of preventable death. The PulsePoint app alerts bystanders—like you—who can help victims before professional help can arrive.

PulsePoint alerts you to nearby people in need. For every minute that passes before help arrives, SCA survival decreases by 7%-10%. It's like an amber alert for SCA victims.



SCA victim in need.



911 system sends PulsePoint alert.



Signal received by nearby PulsePoint users.



Users rush to help the victim before professional help arrives.



Learn more at [pulsepoint.org](http://pulsepoint.org)  
Download PulsePoint Respond

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



SCA KILLS ALMOST  
**1,000** **1/DAY**  
IN THE U.S.

NEARLY **60%** OF SCA VICTIMS DON'T GET CPR UNTIL PROFESSIONAL HELP ARRIVES.

**13M** AMERICANS ARE CPR TRAINED AND CERTIFIED ANNUALLY.

THE U.S. SURVIVAL RATE FOR SCA IS **11%**  
**WE CAN DO BETTER.**

**CALL 911**  
PUSH HARD AND FAST IN THE CENTER OF THE CHEST TO THE BEAT OF "STAYIN' ALIVE" (100X/MINUTE).

Early CPR and rapid defibrillation before an emergency team arrives can boost survival by 50%.

Mayor David L. Meyer

City Council

Joseph D. Harmon

So P. Lim

Janice B. Miller

D. Thomas Ross

Jon R. Stehle Jr.

Sang H. Yi

City Manager Rob Stalzer



## contact us

[WeCare@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:WeCare@fairfaxva.gov)

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Cityscene is available in large print, Braille, and audio upon request.

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## City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts

# LANGUAGE ARTS 123 COMPETITION

The pandemic defined 2020, and it continues to dominate life in 2021. A new competition sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts, Language Arts 123, challenges writers to use COVID-19 as the inspiration for entries in two categories:

- 1. Fiction:** *Coping with Isolation during the COVID-19 Pandemic*
- 2. Non-Fiction:** *Social Media Use during the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Pros and Cons*

The Language Arts 123 Competition is open to fourth and fifth graders, high school juniors and seniors, and adults. Submissions in the two categories are due by 6 p.m., March 31, 2021.

Language Arts 123 Committee members will judge entries on structure, clarity, originality, fluency, coherence, and persuasiveness. Winners will receive the following awards:

- Adult First Prize - \$300;  
Adult Runner-Up - \$150
- High School First Prize - \$200;  
High School Runner-Up - \$100

- Elementary School  
First Prize - \$100;  
Elementary School  
Runner-Up - \$50

Winners will be announced by April 14, 2021.

Information:  
[fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov)  
(search "Commission on the Arts")

